THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, March 9, 1807.

THE RING,

A Moral Tale.

By the Authoress of the Occasional Essays.

(Continued from Page 169.)

THE merchant had arrived at a time of life, though but a middle-aged man, when the giddy tract of what is usually termed pleasure is rarely pursued with avidity; but his daughter was young, and her establishment in life was a grand concern; and how was she to be well established, without some knowledge of those circles, in which her fortune, beauty, and accomplishments, entitled her to move, and indeed to grace? but I must observe, the good rector and Mrs. Love did not entirely coincide with the merchant in opinion; Maria had 'till now lived in retirement, her pure soul untainted with the maxims and precepts of high life; and thought the plan of introduction should be well considered, and that introduction take place by degress. "I have not a doubt," said the good clergyman, "but my little girl will soon do the honours of her father's house with propriety; you, my good Sir, wish for ease and retirement after the bustle and fatigue of business, in a hot climate, and your own health should be the first object of consideration; and I cannot conceive how that will be mended, or the morals of the dear girl improved, by a residence in the metropolis."

The merchant's good sense felt the force of the argument, and it was resolved, that Maria should be no farther initiated

into high life, than what appertained to the life of a country gentlewoman for the present.

With the assistance of the rector he soon purchased an estate, with a handsome commodious house, which was elegantly prepared for the reception of the young lady. Truman had now other plans to arrange, before his mind could be properly at ease.

Maria had all the affection for Mrs. Love, as for a mother; but, as that lady was but in her fortieth year, and a very comely woman, and her father but a few years older, all were of opinion that propriety of conduct was the best guard against censure, and it was therefore determined that the widow should remain where she was. Mr. Truman then settled the cottage and furniture on her for life, together with 100l. per annum for her support.

Miss Parnel, the young lady's governess, had been for some time addressed by a young man, an apothecary, of respectable connections, and encreasing practice; Mr. Truman and the rector conceived it an eligible match, and promoted the doctor's suit. Maria was here allowed to make a full display of her generosity to the intended bride, though her tears flowed fast at the thought of parting with her dearly loved and truly amiable friend, but the grievance must be conformed to; and, in concert with Mrs. Love, made her a present of a most elegant wardrobe of nice workmanship, and curiously inlaid, complete with drawers, and convenient recesses, all of which were well filled with a handsome assortment of clothes and ornaments, proper for a genteel appearance in her station of life. The rector, at the request of the parties, pronounced the nuptial benediction; the merchant gave her away, with 1000l. as a nuptial present, as a reward for her fidelity and attention to his charming daughter; old Truman too, would throw in his golden mite, saying men did not like to be plagued about caps and such nonsense, they were no judge of, and therefore she should have it in her power to help herself. So taking a hearty smack of her lips, and a few capers, as usual, to his whistle of Darby and Joan, was not the least happy on this happy day.

It is not to be supposed that any here would draw off the services of honest Cudjoe from so amiable a master; he was appointed his valet out of livery; the mulatto nurse, and black servants, were assured they should be free when they embarked with his daughter, and they knew also, they were now in a land of freedom; but as many had been trepanned, and sent back, when the end of an unfeeling owner had been answered, to do away all fear, he presented each their manumission in form, with a present also of an hundred guineas, and an annuity of 50l. settled on the mulatto for life, and 20l. on the negroes; leaving it to their option to return to Jamaica, or remain with him;

him; but all cried out they would never leave good massa, and pretty missy.

Mr. Truman's house was now elegantly furnished, and every way prepared and ready for the reception of his amiable daughter; and her nurse and black servants appropriated to her services alone, nor would she engage any other female attendant about her person. The merchant's large fortune, amiable manners, charity without ostentation, and hospitality without parade, soon acquired him the esteem and respect of the genteel part of the neighbourhood, and its environs, nor was the beauty of his lovely daughter without its share of attraction. Some, and indeed eligible proposals of marriage had been made, but as the young lady appeared to turn a deaf ear, the father would lay no constraint on her inclinations. Maria was a fine, spirited, lively girl, and the retired manner in which she was brought up, had given no check to her natural vivacity; but on the contrary, seemed to give a spur to opening delights, and avidity to new found pleasures. Her passions had 'till now lain dormant; but called into action, her pulse began to beat high to transport of new tasted pleasures; her books and pencil, by degrees, became entirely discarded, and to company and cards her whole time was devoted. Her predilection for the latter, gave the merchant at first some uneasiness; he observed her to *bet* one night with a degree of spirit, that savoured rather too much of the spirit of a *gamester*, and gave her a gentle reproof; that it was indecorous, and inconsistent with the gentleness of feminine manners, nor was she a sufficient adept to calculate the chances, and must become the dupe of the designing; but as the young lady only replied with a shower of tears, this doating father could not bear to make her unhappy for a single moment, and as the routine of company were stationary in the country, and the London fashion of *deep* play, had not reared its avaricious head among his guests and acquaintance, so that his fortune stood in no danger of being seriously injured, he, too fatally, indulged her in her favourite amusement.

Mr. Truman's health, by this time, was tolerably established; but as the summer advanced, a lassitude seized him, the effects of a long residence in a hot climate, for which his physician strongly recommended sea air and bathing. Maria was overjoyed at the certainty of visiting a watering place; for though in her day, those places were not considered the sinks of dissipation, as they are now, but receptacles for the sick and infirm, yet it was a change of scene, and places visited by the best company, particularly Brighton.

But before the excursion, Mr. Truman chose to have his daughter settled with a white servant, and Mrs. Fidget was engaged as her woman; but our heroine was so attached to her

nurse, that she would, by no means, consent to leaving her behind. A new travelling coach was ordered for himself, his daughter, and her attendants; Cudjoe and a footman outriders; and as they travelled with their own horses, to give them rest, stopped to take a view of some country towns, and remarkable structures in their way. Elegant accommodations were soon procured at Brighton, and Truman immediately subscribed to the rooms. The beauty and fortune of the lovely girl soon became the general topic of conversation, and her father of general respect.

The Countess Basto was the grand leader in all the fashionable amusements, and to be admitted to her parties was an honour to be boasted of. This elegant, high bred woman of fashion, treated our heroine with an attention so apparently affectionate and motherly, that the merchant's heart bounded with gratitude, and he was almost ready to worship so kind a protectress. They rode out together on horseback, and in a carriage, walked together, and in such excursions the merchant was mostly of the party, and in select parties at home; but as he never played cards, and generally found some one with whom he could converse, paid little attention to his daughter, knowing she was in good hands, the countess being an elderly woman, and always expressing herself, that too much care could not be taken of the morals of youth of either sex, and that it was the duty of age and experience to guard them against the concomitants of vice; the first approach dangerous; and the consequences fatal.

(To be continued.)

State of the Galleys and Galley Slaves, in Genoa, 1797.

By a LADY.

AS the quay where the galleys lie is not far from our inn, I have been to see them; we had no sooner reached it, than we met a whole *posse* of gallerians extremely drunk and good-humoured. It seems it was St. Martin's-day, and a high festival amongst the galley slaves. They all with one voice cried out to us, in very bad Italian, to this effect:—"Illustrious personages, give a little money to poor Christians, who have entirely abandoned Mahomet, and have taken to the worthy cause of Christianity;" we complied with the request to get rid of their clamour, when, having but just passed them, I started at a most strange and sudden noise, which was immediately followed by bursts of applause and laughter; I turned to see what had happened, when, lo! one of the good Christians having tumbled into a porridge pot, lay extended on the pavement, invoking

voking all Mahomet's paradise to his succour. Having reached a large galley, we went on board by the means of planks instantly put out from it for that purpose. They received us most hospitably, and seated us on a kind of elevated deck at one end, which is protected from the sun. In a few moments appeared a small band of musicians, chained two and two; for the polite arts are not unknown on board the galleys, so great a variety of people of every rank and condition in life are there (unhappily) to be found. Their music was by no means bad, but the wretched appearance of the musicians shocked me at first, particularly their poor legs, which were naked, almost black, and of some, the flesh had partly grown over their fetters. Whilst these were playing, others brought biscuit and coffee.

Not having much stomach for music and refreshments, I expressed my wish to walk along the galley, in order to shorten a visit the strange appearance of our host made irksome to me. I thought I should never have reached the end; the slaves chained to the oars, imploring us to listen to the detail of their calamitous situation, and to give them money. The galleys are really a very great length, though I allow my uneasiness helped to lengthen this. The Turkish prisoners on board of them are computed at about 350 at present. There are seldom any women taken; when that happens, they are presented to the noble Genoese ladies, who employ them in the most servile departments of their households. In time of war, each galley carries about 400 men, 18 pieces of 9-pounders, and two of 16: each piece of cannon is served by six men, two of which are Turks, two of the condemned Genoese, and the other two those who have sold themselves to the republic. In time of peace, and in the summer, (the only season they put out to sea) each galley carries 200 men only; they have thirty livres per month wages, and all maintenance. A tax raised, of eight sols the head, is levied upon each Genoese, for the permission to eat butter, eggs, and cream in lent, which money is appropriated to defray the expences of the gallies; also each noble pays from 50 to 100 livres for himself and family, for the enjoyment of the same privilege; which upon calculation amounts to about 20,000 livres annually. This sum goes also to the support of their galleys. Besides Turks who have been taken prisoners, and those Genoese condemned for their crimes, for a limited time, or for life, there are a third sort who sell themselves; amongst whom are Italians of other states, Piedmontese, and even French, who offer themselves to sale for two years certain, for sixty livres; but many of them have been known to have continued slaves for the rest of their lives,

Those

Those who behave well live much more comfortably than their fellows; and there is always a considerable distinction made between these volunteer bondmen and their companions; they, for instance, are allowed to have little shops or sheds, on the quay, and make matts, knit stockings, sell pedlary goods, and some keep little coffee-houses, or lemonadiers. These are all chained to their shops, but the chains being pretty long, they can walk about in them, and even backward and forward before their doors. Others (according to their conduct) are permitted to go all over the town, chained in couples, and hawk about fish matts, &c. but there is always a kind of governor, or master, who watches their motions. Sometimes it has happened, that these poor creatures, coupled together, quarrel, frequently from a trifling cause, as one's wishing to go one way, and the other a different way; these disputes have risen to such a height, that the consequences might have terminated at once their slavery and their lives, had they not been timely separated. On the other hand, friendships have commenced from the similitude of their common misfortunes; so that the greatest harmony subsists amongst some of them.

There is one man who has been chained to his little shop on the quay, where he has vended liquors and coffee for eighteen years past, and by his industry acquired upwards of 40,000 livres: he offered 10,000 livres to Prince D. for the purchase of his liberty, but the prince demanded twenty, and the gallerian thought that even freedom might be bought too dear; therefore he is still a slave, barefooted, his head shaved, and wears a loose short redingotte of coarse cloth, lined with a kind of shag; nor seems to indulge himself with any convenience or comfort of life, more than his comrades, though so much richer. However, to prevent Prince D. and the other magistrates from profiting by his death, he has entered into partnership with a younger slave, whom he has made his heir.

Upon the whole, I own the idea I had acquired in England, of the wretched situation of a galley slave, was exaggerated, perhaps, by my own imaginations forming a picture much too strong, from what I have heard or read. To those gallerians who were originally poor and hard labouring people, the being a galley slave is, in some respects, scarcely to be deemed a misfortune; a very little industry, added to a tolerable conduct, in a thort time procures them a competency: the loss of their liberty is to them but comparative, the confinement of a chain of ten yards long, or the inconsiderable Genoese state, where the government called a republic is as despotic as a monarchy. The state frequently permits the galley slaves to work at any buildings, &c. private or public; they have ten sols per day for their labour, besides a small monthly allowance of tobacco from the republic.

The principal distinction between the converts and the Turks seem to be the not working, and the not getting drunk; the first, no doubt, in the right of faith, claim a title to inebriety themselves upon the bounty of the devots.

The family of Angelo Merio bequeathed an annual rent to maintain a fifth galley, which does not subsist; nor are the two cannon cast annually, as mentioned by Le Lande. Both these bounties sink into the private purses of the guardians of the bequests. I think I forgot to mention that the famous collection of shells called the "Miconys,' (see Addison) is no longer shown to strangers.

BRAVERY *of* CAPTAIN MORTLOCK.

IN the list of those officers who have raised the character of the British navy to its prsent unprecedented fame, the name of Captain Mortlock is deserving of a distinguished place, for his courage and meritorious conduct so conspicuously displayed, and who is not considered as inferior to the oldest veteran.

Captain Mortlock sailed from the Downs in the Woolverine gun-vessel, of 14 guns and 70 men, on a cruize to the coast of France, and being off Boulogne, discovered two luggers, both of which were observed to be French; his first care, therefore was to bring them to action, as he knew, if they supposed him to be a ship of war, they would make off. He, therefore, hoisted Danish colours, which had the desired effect, as they immediately bore down upon him, and came within hail, and questioning Captain Mortlock from whence he came, he returned for answer from Plymouth, and bound to Copenhagen. One of the luggers immediately came close upon the starboard quarter, and he caught her bowsprit between the mizen chains and the side of the Woolverine, and kept her in this situation a length of time, 'till she was ready to wear.

At this moment the action commenced with musquetry and great guns, (the Woolverine hoisting English colours) and was contested with great spirit for above two hours. Captain Mortlock now lashed the bowsprit of the vessel on board of him to his mizen chains, as he determined, if possible, to take both vessels. The other lugger now got on the larboard bow of the Woolverine, running on board of her. In this position she was boarded by the enemy three different times from both vessels, but every Frenchman that engaged in these attempts was killed. At one time the crew of the enemy made so strong an attempt, that it required the assistance of every man in the Woolverine to repulse them. At the same moment a number of Frenchmen were actually on board the Woolverine from the other lugger,

lugger, all of whom were killed by the determined bravery of Captain Mortlock, and two or three brave officers with him. The captain of one of the French vessels himself got upon the little round-house of the Woolverine, and gave his men three cheers, to encourage them to follow him; when Captain Mortlock instantly ran to him, and warmly disputed with him the possession of his post. The Frenchman fired in Captain Mortlock's face, but fortunately did him no injury; he again cocked his pistol, but before he could fire, Captain Mortlock plunged his half pike into his body, and he fell overboard. The Frenchmen now threw some leather bags into the cabin of the Woolverine, which immediately set her on fire with a great explosion.

Captain Mortlock was, with part of his crew, obliged to leave the enemy to extinguish the flames, and, in the interim, the two vessels got clear away. While they were going off, one of them fired a shot at the Woolverine, which unfortunately struck Captain Mortlock, and gave him his death wound. He had before this been wounded in three different places, but he still resolutely kept on the deck. He was first wounded in the hand; a ball which passed through a hammock, hit him on the heart, which occasioned violent pains, and he was wounded very severely in the hip by a splinter. His last wound was, indeed, shocking to relate: his arm was shattered to pieces, and the flesh torn away from the side of his body. Thus fell a man, in the prime of life, whose merits will entitle him to the respect due to departed worth, and whose excellent disposition and pleasantness of manners will live long in the remembrance of all who knew him.

On the CULTURE *of* SPRING WHEAT.

By the Right Hon. Sir JOSEPH BANKS, *Bart. K. B.*

REAL spring wheat, the triticum æstivum, or summer wheat of botanists, is a grain too tender to bear the frost of the winter, but as quick in progress from its first shoot to ripeness, as barley, oats, or any other spring corn.

It is well known on all parts of the continent, and much used in France, where it is called *blé de mars*, from the season in which it is usually sown; and in some provinces *bleds tremois*, from the time it takes between seed time and harvest; in Spanish it is called *trigo de marzo;* in Portuguese *trigo tremes*; and in German *sommer waitzen;* all which names mark distinctly the difference between this and winter corn.

It does not appear from the older books on husbandry, that it was at any former period much cultivated in England; the more

more modern ones are in general silent on the subject of it; they mention indeed, under the name of spring wheat, every kind of winter wheat, which will ripen when sown after turnips in February. This is probably the reason why the real spring wheat has been so little known, agriculturists in general conceiving themselves to be actually in the habit of sowing spring wheat, when in reality they were substituting winter wheat in its place, have been little inclined to inquire into the properties of the real spring wheat, when they had an opportunity of so doing.

In the lower parts of Lincolnshire, where the land is the most valuable, and consequently the most subject to mildew, spring wheat has been long known, and it is now cultivated to a great extent. Mr. Sers, of Gedney, near Spalding, has lately claimed a premium of the Board of Agriculture for the largest quantity of land sown with spring wheat in 1805; his quantity is 241 acres, and there is no reason to suppose that he added a single acre to his crop on account of the board's offer. He is a man, who by his skill and talents in agriculture alone, has raised himself to opulence, and possesses a considerable landed estate, for which he is certainly in part indebted to the free culture of spring wheat during the last thirty years.

Mr. Sers sows spring wheat from the 25th of March, 'till the first week in May; for a full crop he sows fourteen pecks on an acre, and expects to reap four quarters; if he sows seeds under it, which is very generally practised, he sows nine pecks, and expects three quarters in return; he finds it thrive nearly equally well on his stiff and his light land; and has found it, by experience, to be exempt from the mildew or blight, and free from all damage of the grub or wire worm.

The farmers in South Holland, where Mr. Sers resides, uniformly declare, that they have been many years ago compelled, by frequent attacks of the mildew or blight, to abandon almost entirely the sowing of winter wheat, and that they then substituted spring wheat in its place, and have used it ever since; they believe it to be wholly exempt from the mildew or blight. In the neighbourhood of Horncastle, the land is either light or sandy, or composed chiefly of Norfolk marle, called in that neighbourhood, white clay. Such land, though tolerably productive in barley and seeds, is not to be compared with the rich and fertile tracts of South Holland, and yet the culture of spring wheats has of late years increased, and is now increasing fast, because the millers begin to understand its nature, and cease to undervalue it as they did at first.

The grain of spring wheat is considerably smaller than that of winter wheat; in colour it resembles red lammas so much, that it may be mixed with that grain, and this mixture will do no injury to the seller, as spring wheat weighs heavy; nor to

the buyer, as it yields better at the mill than from its appearance might be expected; 60lb. a bushel is about its usual weight. Mr. Sers, of the last crop weighed 61lb. and he has sold some mixed with less than half of red lammas, at the usual market price of the winter wheat of the last harvest, though the winter wheat was better in quality, and the spring worse than usual.

In the countries best acquainted with its culture, spring wheat is preferred to all other corn for raising a crop of seeds. This is owing to the small quantity of leaf it bears, less perhaps than any other corn, and to the short duration of the leaf, which fades and falls down almost as soon as it has attained its full size.

In cases where red wheat has been damaged by the wire worm, a mischief which seems of late years to have increased in this island, spring wheat appears to hold out an easy and a simple remedy. In the first week of May, the ravages of the worm have somewhat abated; if then the seed of spring wheat is at that time dibbled, or only raked with a garden rake into the naked spots left by the worm, though it will not attain the growth at which the worm begins to prey upon it, 'till he has changed his state for that of a winged beetle, will certainly be ripe as soon as the winter wheat, and may be thrashed out and sold with it; or if it is preferred, may be reaped separately, as the appearance of the ears, which, in the Lincolnshire sort, have longer beards, or awns than the rivett or cone wheat, will point it out to the reapers in such a manner, that no great error can happen in separating it from the lammas.

In years of scarcity, this wheat offers a resource which may occasionally be of the utmost importance to the community; of this the Board of Agriculture were very sensible in the spring of 1805, when they offered premiums for the increase of its culture, which have had the effect of rendering it much more generally known than otherwise would have been the case. The price of wheat seldom advances much, even in very scarce years, 'till a considerable portion of the crop has been thrashed out, and the yield of it by this means actually ascertained; but this does not take place 'till the seed time of winter wheat is wholly over; no speculation therefore, of sowing an increased quantity of that grain, can be entered into during the first year of a scarcity; but before the end of April, the question of the average yield of the preceding crop will be generally known, and when it is much below the usual proportion, there can be no doubt that a large quantity of spring wheat will be sown, if the seed can be easily procured.

Lest the revival of the culture of spring wheat, even under the liberal protection it has received from the Board of Agriculture, may be retarded by this principle, which seems to be inherent

inherent in the nature of mankind, it may be adviseable to state here, that in the neighbourhood of Boston and Spalding, in Lincolnshire, the cultivation of it is now fully established, and likely to continue: from either of these places therefore, the seed may at any future time, as well as at present, be obtained without difficulty; and as there is a water communication between these towns, and as Boston is a sea-port, it may always be brought to London, or any other maritime part of England, at a small charge.

In time when dearth recurs, which will occasionally happen as long as the manufacturing interest insist on keeping the price of corn, in a plentiful harvest, below the actual cost of growing it, speculations on the sowing of spring wheat may be carried so far as to raise the price of seed, 'till a saving in it becomes a matter of political as well as of economical importance; an experiment is therefore added to shew that spring wheat will succeed as well by dibbling as by broad-cast, made in the spring of 1804.

Mr. William Showler, of Revesby, dibbled four pecks and a half of spring wheat on one acre and two roods of middling land, which had borne turnips the winter before, and had no extraordinary preparation for this crop; the rows were eight inches asunder; the holes four inches asunder and two inches deep; and two grains were put into each hole.

The produce from the quantity of 4½ pecks of seeds was 7 quarters, or 4 quarters, 1 bushel, and 1 peck per acre; a fair crop, and as much at least as could have been expected from 18 or 21 bushels sown broad-cast on the same land.

By a careful analysis in the wet way, conducted by Professor Davy, of the royal institution, the following results have been obtained from different kinds of wheat:—

	Gluten	*Starch*	*Insoluble Matter*
From 100 parts of best Sicilian wheat	21	75	4
Spring wheat, 1804	24	70	6
Good English wheat, 1803	19	77	4
Blighted wheat, 1804	13	52	44

From this analysis may fairly be deduced, that bread made of the flour of spring wheat is more nutritious than that made of winter wheat; because spring wheat contains a larger proportion of gluten, or half-animalized matter; and also that a miller ought not to deduct from the price of spring wheat more than two per cent. on the money price of winter wheat of the same weight, as the excess of the weight of insoluble matter, or bran, is no more than two per cent. when compared with good English winter wheat.

Bread made of spring wheat is rather less white than that made of the better sorts of winter wheat; but it is allowed to be more palatable in Lincolnshire where it is best known. Both these qualities are probably owing to the excess of gluten contained in it.

J. B.

FASHIONS *for* MARCH,

As described and represented by Prints in the fourteenth Number of "La Belle Assemblee; or, Bell's Court and Fashionable Magazine."

ENGLISH COSTUME.

Walking Dress.

A Polish robe of purple velvet, flowing open in front, rounded gradually from the bottom towards the lappels, which are continued across the shoulder, and finished in regular points on the back. A *chemisette* of the same, with high full collar; the whole trimmed entirely round with the red fox, mole, leopard spot, or grey squirrel. A rich cord and tassel fastened in the centre of the back, which occasionally confines the robe. The back and skirt cut in one; and the sleeve nearly to fit the arm. Polish cap of the same material, trimmed round the edge, and across the crown, with correspondent skin; a cord and tassels suspended in irregular lengths from the right side of the crown. York tan gloves; and primrose, or purple shoes.

An Evening Dress.

A round train dress of soft white satin, buttoned simply down the left side; the back very low, and quite plain. High, and double puffed sleeves, with wrap front. Military sash of cob-web muslin, embroidered in gold spots, commencing from the back of the right shoulder, crossing the waist behind, and passing under the right side of the bosom, gathered into a pearl brooch at the opposite corner, and flowing within a quarter of a yard to the bottom of the dress, where it is finished with a rich gold tassel. Hair turned up in the Grecian style; plain bands brought to a point on the forehead, irregularly curled at the ears and on the crown of the head, where it is confined with a coronet, or diadem of pearl. Pearl necklace, ear-rings, and bracelets; gold armlet. White kid gloves. Shoes of white satin, embroidered with gold. Fan of white crape, with gold spangled border.

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A Ball Dress,

Of plain crape, over a white satin slip, made a dancing length; plain back and sleeve, with quartered front, trimmed round the bottom, on the waist and sleeves, with a white velvet riband thickly spangled with gold. A white satin sash, tied in long bows and ends on the right side, terminated with splendid gold tassels. High gathered tucker of Brussels lace. Hair in dishevelled curls, confined with a white velvet band similar with the trimming of the dress; bow of the same blended with the hair, and placed over the left eye. India shawl, a deep amber colour, with a rich and variegated fringe and border, negligently drawn through each arm, so as to form a flowing drapery on the right side of the figure. Necklace composed of bright topaz, set transparent, fastened with a diamond stud in the centre. Topaz ear-rings of the fashionable shell form; gold elastic bracelets. French kid gloves. White satin shoes, with gold rosets. Fan of amber crape, with devices in purple and gold.

PARISIAN COSTUME.

Winter Dress.

A promenade coat of soft Circassian cloth, a pale olive colour, buttoned down the front, and formed high in the back, with open round lappels at the bosom, double roll trimming round the arm-hole and wrist; full lace tucker, and double *demi* ruff *à la Queen Elizabeth*, plaited in vandyke. Sash of pale salmon colour, or pink sarsnet, tied in small bows, and long ends on the right side. Equestrian hat, composed with similar materials with the coat, projecting leaves in front of the same. Hair close cropt behind, divided on the forehead, and curled on the sides. Shawl of pale salmon colour, with blue and crimson border, carelessly thrown over the left arm. Necklace, two rows of fine pearl; ear-rings of gold; and fan of white tiffany, embroidered in blue and gold. Straw-coloured gloves and shoes.

TRIAL in the COURT of COMMON PLEAS,

February 27, 1807.

SUIT AT LAW FOR THREE-PENCE.

Michael *v.* Overton.

THE plaintiff originally demanded 2l. 1s. The defendant by his plea stated, that he owed only 2l. and 9d. and that he had tendered and offered to pay that sum. The plaintiff admitted

admitted the tender, and stated that he had made a subsequent demand of the 2l. and 9d. It appeared upon the evidence of the plaintiff, that a demand subsequent to the tender was actually made, but it was for the original demand. After the action was brought, the defendant would have paid the 2l. 1s. but there being the costs accrued to the amount of 2l. to Mr. Isaacs, the plaintiff's attorney, he refused to pay.

Mr. Justice Rooke said, it was a very trumpery action, and that the plaintiff should have proved a subsequent demand of 2l. and 9d. according to the pleadings.—Verdict for defendant.

Statistical Calculations respecting Great Britain.

IN Great Britain the number of people capable of rising in arms, *en masse*, from 15 to 60 years of age, is 2,744,847.

The volunteers in the united kingdom, in March, 1806, were 700,000.

There are about 98,030 marriages yearly, and of 63 marriages, 3 only are observed to be without offspring.

In Great Britain, there die every year, about 332,708; every month, about 25,592; every week, 6398; every day, 914; and every hour about 40.

Among 115 deaths, there may be reckoned one woman in childbed, but only one in 400 dies in labour.

The proportion of the deaths of women, to that of men, is 50 to 54.

Married women live longer than those who are not married.

In country places there is on an average, 4 children born of each marriage. In cities the proportion is 7 to every two marriages.

The married women are to all the female inhabitants of a country, as one to three, and the married men to all the males, as three to five.

The number of widows is to that of widowers, as three to one; but that of widows who re-marry to that of widowers, as four to five.

The number of old persons who die during the cold weather, is to those who die during the warm season, as 7 to 4.

More people live to a great age in elevated situations, than in those which are lower.

Half of all that are born, die before they attain 17 years.

The number of twins is to that of single births, as one to sixty-five.

According to the observations of Boerhaave, the healthiest children are born in January, February, and March.

The greatest number of births is in February and March, answering to May and June.

From calculations founded on the bills of mortality, only one out of 3126 reaches 100 years.

The small pox in the natural way, usually carries off 8 out of 100. By inoculation, one dies out of 300.

From the population abstract of 1801, published by order of the house of commons, the following results are obtained; the other statements are from Davenant, and the most indisputable authorities.

The total number of inhabited houses in England, in 1801, was 1,474,740. In 1690 they were 1,319,215, which shews an increase in 111 years, of 274,492 houses. In 1759 the surveyors of the house and window duties, returned 986,482, and in 1781, 1,005,810.

In 1801, there were in England five and two-thirds persons to a house; in Wales five; in England and Wales five and three-fifths; in Scotland, five and two-fifths, and in Great Britain five and five-ninths.

The proportion of males born to that of females, is as 26 to 25.

Of the total number of males in Great Britain, it appears that about 1 in 27 are in the army and militia; 1 in 11½ or 10 out of 110 are either in the army, navy, or seamen in the merchants' service.

In the sea-ports of Great Britain, there are 132 females to 100 males, and in the manufacturing towns, 113 females to 100 males.

The total of the male population of Great Britain, in 1801, was 5,450,292, and of females, 5,492,354, which is in the proportion of 100 females to 99 males.

CHARACTER *of* GENERAL WASHINGTON.

GENERAL WASHINGTON was rather above the common size, his frame was robust, and his constitution vigorous, capable of enduring great fatigue, and requiring a considerable degree of exercise for the preservation of his health. His exterior created in the beholder the idea of strength, united with manly gracefulness.

His manners were rather reserved than free, though they partook nothing of that dryness and sternness which accompany reserve when carried to an extreme; and on all proper occasions, he could relax sufficiently to shew how highly he was gratified by the charms of conversation, and the pleasures of society. His person and whole deportment exhibited an unaffected and indescribable dignity, unmingled with haughtiness,

of

of which all who approached him were sensible; and the attachment of those who possessed his friendship and enjoyed his intimacy, was ardent, but always respectful.

His temper was humane, benevolent, and conciliatory, but there was a quickness in his sensibility to any thing apparently offensive, which experience had taught him to watch and to correct.

In the management of his private affairs, he exhibited an exact, yet liberal economy. His funds were not prodigally wasted on capricious and ill-examined schemes, nor refused to beneficial, yet costly improvements. They remained, therefore, competent to that expensive establishment, which his reputation, added to a hospitable temper, had in some measure imposed upon him; and to those donations which real distress has a right to claim from opulence.

He made no pretensions to that vivacity which fascinates, or to that wit which dazzles, and frequently imposes on the understanding. More solid, than brilliant, judgment, rather than genius, constituted the most prominent feature of his character.

As a military man, he was brave, enterprising, and cautious. That malignity which has sought to strip him of all the higher qualities of a general, has conceded to him personal courage, and a firmness of resolution, which neither dangers nor difficulties could shake. But candour will allow him other great and valuable endowments. If his military course does not abound with splendid achievements, it exhibits a series of judicious measures, adapted to circumstances, which probably saved his country.

Respecting, as the first magistrate in a free government must ever do, the real and deliberate sentiments of the people, their gusts of passion passed over without ruffling the smooth surface of his mind. Trusting to the reflecting good sense of the nation for approbation and support, he had the magnanimity to pursue its real interests in opposition to its temporary prejudices, and, though far from being regardless of popular favour, he could never stoop to retain, by deserving to lose it. In more instances than one, we find him committing his whole popularity to hazard, and pursuing steadily, in opposition to a torrent which would have overwhelmed a man of ordinary firmness, that course which had been dictated by a sense of duty.

In speculation he was a real republican, devoted to the constitution of his country, and to that system of equal political rights on which it is founded. But between a balanced republic, and democracy, the difference is like that between order and chaos; real liberty, he thought was to be preserved only by preserving the authority of the laws, and maintaining the energy of government.

Vulgar Prejudice respecting Mad Persons corrected.

THERE is a vulgar prejudice, that a person bitten by a mad dog, and pronounced irrecoverable, may, according to the laws of the land, be bled to death, or smothered. To correct this prejudice, we quote the opinion of Sir Vicary Gibbs on this point.

"I am clearly of opinion, that it is not lawful, by any means, wilfully to put to death a person who has been bitten by a mad dog; and those who wilfully commit such an act are guilty of murder, and liable to be tried and convicted accordingly

"It probably will be found, upon inquiry, that the bleeding was applied as a remedy to the disorder, and not for the purpose of putting an end to the patient's life.

"V. GIBBS."

DEAF *and* DUMB INDIANS.

AT the public examination of the deaf and dumb, at Paris, in June last, M. Sicard stated, that a traveller in North America had lately discovered a numerous tribe of Indians, who communicated all their ideas by signs, and not by speech. One of these Indians having been brought to Philadelphia, was examined respecting the mode of conversation practised by his countrymen, and the account of the examination was signed by the president of the United States. It appeared that the signs he employed, very much resembled those used by M. Sicard's pupils.

ANCIENT *and* MODERN HISTORY.

ANCIENT history has usually been found more seducing, as well as more interesting, than modern history: nevertheless, the fall of the Roman empire, the origin of the modern kingdoms in Europe, the discovery of America, and (in France, particularly) the exploits of Charlemagne, the crusades, and the revival of the arts under the fostering reign of Francis I. are, at least, equally important events with the Grecian wars or Roman conquests. It is not, therefore, the materials that form this distinction, it is the manufacturer of whom we must complain. Our historians are neither painters, philosophers, nor statesmen; some one of which qualities every writer of antiquity possessed, and many of them not unfrequently the whole. To this much of their fame, as historians, is undoubtedly owing.

Answer, by W. D. of Bristol, to J. Lewis's Rebus, inserted December 22.

THE crime which you would have me name,
I understand is POACHING game.

☞ Similar answers have been received from Rusticus, of Awliscombe; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. S. and H. Ellis, of Exeter; J. Ryan, of Stonehouse; J. Rowden, of Heytesbury; and R. Gidley, of Dean Prior

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Answer, by P. Gove, of Exeter, to J. S.'s Enigma, inserted December 22.

SHOULD Bonaparte, with all his host,
Attempt t' invade fam'd Albion's coast,
France sure will rue that fatal day,
'Twill fill her sons with dire dismay,
For here they'll find that potent bar,
Their scourge—a British SHIP of WAR.

⁂ We have received the like answer from W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; H. Ellis, J. S. and Henry Stoneman, of Exeter; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; B. Belcher, of East Stonehouse; R. Gidley, and P. Codd, of Dean Prior; J. Salter, of Broadhembury; J. Rowden, of Heytesbury; and M. P. Moyle, of Marazion.

A CHARADE, *by Alexander.*

MY first is what the sailor strives to gain,
When storms and tempests agitate the main;
My next is useful when dread winter's come,
To cheer the peasant in his peaceful home:
My whole is found amidst the cannon's roar,
And helps to stain the deck with human gore.

A REBUS, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

A Worthless character suggest;
A pronoun next pray find;
Thirdly, that time when mortals rest;
To these a bird combine.

O thou my whole! pure as the light
That guides us thro' the day;
May I, by thee conducted right,
Be never led astray.

A REBUS, *by J. Whitnell, of Street.*

A Smirksome look I'd have you find,
And right transpose the same;
'Tis then my first you'll bring to mind,
Ye gents. and bards of fame.

The human frame you'll next inspect,
For thus my second's found:
My whole, if rightly you detect,
A plant you will expound.

☞ S. D. *is an advertisement.*

⁂ *Postage of letters must be paid, or their contents will not be noticed.*

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A WINTER PIECE.

WHEN one bad passion empire gains,
And rudely subjugates the mind,
It the most noble virtue stains,
Tho' by the heart humane refin'd.

Perverted thus, a man may be
To innocence the cause of woe:
Alas! how many may we see,
Who this by dear experience know!

Thus as I mus'd, one wintry night,
When by the moon's chill beam I rov'd,
An object, as I turn'd my sight,
These sad, but just reflections prov'd.

'Twas at a wretched cottage door,
A pale and meagre infant stood:
Her parents, so distress'd and poor,
Could not procure her daily food.

Where lies the fault? Ah me! too true,
The parents' folly is the cause!
'Tis that which makes their comforts few,
And round the veil of mis'ry draws.

'Tis drunkenness, that passion base,
Which keeps them constantly so poor;
'Tis that, and sloth, which rudely chase
The heav'nly virtues from their door.

Those bade the tender infant feel
All the keen horrors of distress:
And dire misfortune seem'd to seal
A doom no mortal can express.

So pale the innocent appear'd,
And so inclement was the sky,
No smile of peace her visage cheer'd!
No spark of joy illum'd her eye!

No pleasing raptures swell'd her breast!
No pitying friend, alas! was near,
To soothe such innocence distress'd,
And wipe away the falling tear!

Methought she lifted up her eyes,
With a forlorn, dejected air,
T' implore the blast, then passing by,
Her tender, sickly frame, to spare!

But ah! unfeeling was the blast,
It unrelenting whistled by;
And O! it chill'd her as it pass'd,
And dimm'd again her languid eye.

It seem'd as if the angel death
Had bid all animation cease;
What joy to have resign'd her breath,
And clos'd her eyes in endless peace!

But still, alas! she lives forlorn,
And drags a miserable chain!
No smile of comfort gilds her morn,
O'ercast with pinching want and pain!

Creator! Pow'r supremely wise!
In pity be her kindest friend;
O take her to her kindred skies,
And bid all mortal suff'ring end!

O take her! Let her infant tongue
In scenes of glory lisp thy praise!
There animate her feeble song,
And raise to rapture all her lays!

Trent. B. A.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

SLAVERY.

HARK! how the sons of Afric groan,
Beneath their galling chain;
The piercing cry is heard afar,
And echoed o'er the main.

Mild pity hears the rending sigh,
And weeps their sufferings o'er;
Whilst slav'ry, hellish fiend! exults,
And seeks to torture more.

The negro, torn from every tie,
Of parent, brother, friends;
Bereft of all that comforts life,
Beneath the yoke he bends.

And shall brave Albion's sons consent
To trade in human blood?
Shall they, still deaf to Afric's wrongs,
Oppose her future good.

Ah no! in far more noble plans,
May Britons sons agree!
May pity move their gen'rous hearts,
And Afric's race be free!

Then while the spark of life shall last,
They'll bless the English name;
And to the earth's remotest bounds,
Resound their lasting fame.

Bristol. W. C.

EPIGRAM.

WHEN Sue was my mistress, I led a blest life,
And by way of requital I made her my wife:
But reason strong can't rule my wayward will
I hate the wife, but love the mistress still.